

Meeting Minutes
WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting
10:00 a.m. – Building Construction Services Conference Room

Attendees: Laren Armstrong, Henry Killion, Glynn Perkins, Stanley Plizga, and Scott Schermerhorn

Absent: Lawrence Harrod (excused)

County: Karen Bliss, Judith Nothdurft, and Sandy Wright

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. with a roll call that determined a quorum was present.

The meeting minutes from January 22, 2014 were unanimously approved as written.

The meeting minutes from March 5, 2014 were unanimously approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- Newgate Waterway – The County has four lots on which they have obtained construction easements between Jennings and David. Real Property is working on another lot east of David for access. The project is still on schedule to start construction in December during the dry season. All permits have been obtained. It is necessary to work around the turtles and scrub jays. Moving the turtles will be the next step. The turtles are relocated at an approximate cost of \$3000 each. A turtle survey will be done 90 days prior to construction by the County Natural Resources Department to determine how many turtles are present when the project is put out to bid.
- Oyster Creek – This will be put out to bid later this year for the work to be done in FY 2014/15. There has been \$85,000 budgeted the project. The same Request for Proposal (RFP) that was used last time will be used for the next RFP. The Committee would like a copy of all RFP's before the projects go out to bid so they can review and make necessary changes before they are put out to bid.
- Grass Carp Barriers – Bids are due by April 7, 2014. The Committee expressed concern that they have not been given a copy of the 100% drawings; the last drawings given to them were at 80% and there have been a lot of modifications since then. Mr. Plizga stated that with the help of Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, these drawings are not necessary. The original 6 barriers are now down to 3. Horizontal bars on the barriers rather than vertical have been requested and stainless steel and aluminum have been requested for the construction materials. The Committee did not review the Request for Bids (RFB) before it went out and is concerned that the information may be incorrect. The Committee stated this is unacceptable. Ms. Bliss was provided a list of Carp Vendors by Mr. Plizga; she went through the list, and verified that all the contact information was up to date, then sent it to the Purchasing Department.
- 2 Culverts at White Marsh Inlet – Mr. Killion stated that his concern has come to be and the sheet pilings installed last week have been breached and there is no way that it can be pumped dry. Mr. Killion's concern was passed to Maintenance & Operations (M&O) for review. Mr. Slade went to the site and took photos. The Committee stated that this is behind schedule. Ms. Nothdurft will follow up for the status. Another concern was the closeness of the pipes.
- Erosion Locations
 1. 284 Mariner Lane is almost complete and the property owner is very pleased.
 2. 899 & 902 Boundary Blvd. areas were filled and sodded – they are complete.
 3. 193 West Pine Valley – when it was investigated no needed repairs were evident. The committee stated that the sediment washed into the area when the broken main took place. M&O has done all that they can. Mr. Plizga said the same issue is at 899 and 902 Boundary Blvd. All three locations have silt that needs to be removed. The Committee wants to move forward with the silt removal at the erosion locations. Ms. Nothdurft and Ms. Bliss will contact Ms. Vernon for a status update on how and when the silt will be removed.

WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Page 2

- Coral Creek Restoration Project – The yellow silt booms are still lying on the ground on both sides of the waterway and they need to be removed. Mr. Plizga stated the canal system is not bleeding off as in the past. He contacted Stephanie Powers from Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and she said there may be some concerns. The weirs that were put in to control the flood waters are at an elevation of 1.8ft NAVD and the 5A weir at the road has a higher elevation of 1.9ft NAVD. The Committee asked if the wetlands at 2.0ft NAVD will have the ability to drain off the water properly in a stormwater situation. Ms. Bliss will mention the above concerns when she meets with SWFWMD and FDEP representatives this afternoon. Phase II will begin in 2 years but there is concerned about flooding situations between now and then. Mr. Plizga requested that Ms. Vernon contact Stephanie Powers. The Committee stated that there should be an ongoing maintenance plan in place because sod was installed. The County should be responsible for mowing and cutting back the Brazilian Peppers that may grow. Ms. Bliss will follow-up on the maintenance plan.
- Vanderbilt Dam – This is a moot point at this time. The concern was about salt water intrusion if a storm happened. No expenditures can be made on private property.
- Buck Creek – The vegetation removal is no further along. There are no flow problems at this time. It is on private property and very little work could be done in this location. Mr. Killion stated that the Committee is trying to be proactive instead of waiting until it becomes a problem.
- Water Lettuce Removal – there is a 45 day contract with Earth Balance. Equipment will be mobilizing next Monday. The lettuce will be pushed towards the shoreline; a long range scooper will be used to remove the lettuce. The permit will be modified to allow spraying to prevent future growth of the water lettuce. County staff will do the spraying. The Committee was looking for ways to save on that contract. They stated that there has been a great deal of money wasted to take care of this item. The Purchasing Department didn't question the other bids coming in with such a price difference. The Committee is extremely unhappy with the purchasing process and would like the process to be looked at to prevent this from happening again in the future. Mr. Schermerhorn wants it known that he realizes that Mr. Quick has his duties but that the purchasing process cost the tax payers a lot of money that didn't need to be spent and he is strongly against it. Mr. Perkins stated the project cost 4 times more than it should have. This committee can't afford to spend the tax payer's money in that way. The lettuce problem is now a far bigger problem due to its rapid growth because it was January when this project first began. Mr. Killion stated that they first asked for the lettuce to be removed in October and the project is just now beginning. Mr. Plizga stated that the water lettuce is the home to a species of mosquito that breeds and lives with the lettuce and carries diseases. Mr. Plizga stated that he doesn't understand how contracts can be put out to bid with only one vendor responding and asked how the vendor's qualifications can be qualified when there are no others to be compared to. The Purchasing process needs to be looked at. There must be something wrong when the County only receives one or two bids on big projects. Again, the Committee wants it on record that they are extremely unhappy with the purchasing process and the amount of money it is costing the unit.
- John Farrell from FloridAquadic – gave a presentation regarding water lettuce. Aqua cranes are used to harvest. His company owns an amphibious tool carrier and it works very well. Actively growing plants eat nutrients. His company has received a lot of kudos and recognition. These machines go anywhere. The presentation showed several ways the equipment is used and how it works. The equipment floats and can be used in water several feet deep. This Company was hired by the Rotonda West Association (RWA) to clear the water lettuce. The equipment was brought to the meeting place for the Committee and citizens to observe. Mr. Farrell stated that the equipment could be purchased by the County and it would save a lot of money. Mr. Killion stated he wanted this presentation today so County staff can see the new equipment on the market and what a good job it does. This new equipment can access areas without installing ramps and the like.

WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Page 3

New Business:

- **Financial Reports** – There was discussion regarding Grass Carp, Lettuce Removal, and Fish Barriers being lumped together into one line item under WO 1352725 for the dates of January 28, February 11, February 25 and March 11. There is no information regarding what the charges are for so the Committee can't tell what work was actually done. Ms. Nothdurft will check the comments and report back to the Committee. The report says the Committee spent \$24,000 for "Other" with no break down on what constitutes "Other". Ms. Nothdurft sends copies of the invoices to the Committee for review as she receives them. All invoices have been sent as of today. The Committee asked if Purchasing charges their time to the MSBU for their time when preparing a bid. Purchasing charges may be under Central/Indirect charges – Ms. Nothdurft will follow up.

Citizen Input:

- Jay Lyons – received an estimate of \$2000 to have the pepper trees removed from two canal banks that RWA owns and thinks this should be done. The invasive species should also be removed from the vacant lots. The Committee asked if the banks along these rivers are easements and if the County should be responsible for clearing them. Ms. Nothdurft will follow up.
- John Farrell – the Brazilian pepper trees are in the mangroves and if they are not controlled, they will kill the mangroves which ultimately would kill the small fish that live in the mangroves. This needs to be investigated.
- John Carroll – expressed his pleasure with the job that FloridAquatic has done removing the water lettuce.
- Jay Lyons- Question: Have the responsibilities been approved for County staff to maintain the Rotonda Waterway by spraying herbicide? Answer: Miss Bliss responded yes.
- John Peszko - asked if any thought been put into installing rip rap along the canals for erosion prevention. The RWA has given it thought. He suggests that the MSBU give some thought to the idea. Mr. Perkins said it would probably solve the erosion problem but that it would make the canals look more like a drainage ditch than it really is. Mr. Peszko would like the Committee to look into it. The Committee said the costs would have to be taken into consideration also.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Submitted by:



Sandy Wright
Public Works Department

Sign in Sheet
West Charlotte Stormwater Advisory Comm.
March 27, 2014 - Regular Meeting
10:00 A.M. - Building Construction Services Conf. Rm.

Stan PIZGA

~~Frank Killion~~

Glynn Perkins

Karen Bliss

Loren Armstrong

Russ Kulp/Rusky

Jay Lyons

John Carroll

JOHN FARREN

JOHN PESZKO

Ben Neal

Scott Schuneman